

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INCORPORATED

479 Huntington Avenue  
Boston 15, Massachusetts

COLLÈGE DE FRANCE

Cabinet d'Égyptologie

Inventaire B 10 495

NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTY-SIX

December, 1959

Appended to this Newsletter are the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on November 17. Members who were not present at the meeting are urged to read them with care. It may not be amiss, however, before presenting the communications received from this year's Fellows in Egypt, to draw attention to some of the points raised by the President of the Center, Mr. Edward W. Forbes, in his report to the meeting.

Mr. Forbes was gratified to be able to report that the trustees of the Bollingen Foundation had voted to continue for two additional seasons the grant for fellowships for Egyptological and Islamic studies so generously offered to the Center during the past three years, including the present one.

After outlining the accomplishments of the Fellows who have held the grant, Mr. Forbes proceeded to show the advance made by the Center, which will celebrate its first decade of corporate existence in 1960. He pointed out that it now had the modest beginning of a capital fund (see the report of the Treasurer, below) and that, in spite of rising costs of materials and services, it still covered current expenses from the sum received in membership dues, without drawing either on invested capital or the interest received from it. He again drew attention to the fact that an additional \$10,000 had been offered by an anonymous donor, to be added to the capital fund, provided the Center could match it during 1959, but that to date only one-third of the sum had been received.\* He urged that individual members bend their efforts to interest others in membership in the Center, which is sure to benefit from the improvement in cultural relationships between the United Arab Republic and the United States.

\*All of this has come from donations made by Trustees. - Ed.





His report is given in full below.

## LETTERS FROM THE FELLOWS IN EGYPT

From George T. Scanlon, Islamic Fellow and Director in Cairo

Cairo, November 23, 1959

Dear Members:

As of today I have been three weeks in Cairo. Most of this time has been taken up with the minutiae of readjustment and reacquaintance. Friends of my former residence in Cairo, 1957 and 1958, have crowded about with an exuberance of welcome and regard which are the most reassuring things about this world of the East. Here the civility of the heart is transcendent, and to be once again the object of its concern is indeed gratifying.

I have, however, accomplished two things worth reporting. The first was to set up a plan for the guided tours for the season 1959-1960. I thought it a good thing to increase our prospective audience with recruits from the Canadian Embassy and other English-speaking groups, some members of which have indicated that they would be interested in joining the Center. Interest in the tours seems to grow from year to year, attesting the fine work done in the past by Bernard Bothmer, Ed Wente, John Williams, and Helen Wall.

Nick Millet and I intend to lead sixteen Sunday morning tours commencing November 29 and ending with the first Sunday in April. Eight Egyptological and eight Islamic sites and/or institutions will be visited. Since Nick will be in Upper Egypt in January and February collecting material for his doctoral thesis and I would like to visit the Crusader castles in Jordan and Syria during March, he will conduct the first four tours, I will take the next eight, and he will be in charge of the final four.

Since I have found that much time at a site would have to be given over to a preliminary historical survey in order to place a monument in proper perspective, I have offered to give three lectures of fifty minutes each on Islamic history. These are to be given at a time and place to be specified by the Cultural Attaché of the American Embassy and are to be limited to those participating in the tours, which could then be concerned only with discussion of the monuments



as fitting into the historical background. Particulars of this experiment will be outlined in my next letter.

My second accomplishment was a long talk with the head of the Islamic Section of the Department of Antiquities, Dr. Muhammad Mehdi. He was most cordial. I found him greatly interested in possible American participation in future excavation of Islamic sites. The Director-General of Antiquities, Dr. Abdul Fattah Hilmi, an Islamic art historian of note and both a student and collaborator of Professor Creswell, has also given thought to such joint endeavors. It is planned that the tempo of excavation of Islamic sites be accelerated during the next three or four years, which would afford a possibility for individual Americans or groups of Americans to receive guidance and experience in a field that is all but dead in the curricula of Oriental studies in the United States.

I have been invited to visit, later in the winter, a dig in Nubia, where there has been uncovered a Muslim cemetery with cupola-domes similar to those of Aswan and Assiut and thus to be placed roughly in the Fatimid period. Beneath the cleared land, there is a Pharaonic site of some importance, so the Islamic remains will be photographed and recorded and removed. Since other sites in Nubia promise to yield Islamic antiquities, nearly all the winter's work of the Islamic Section of the Department of Antiquities will be concentrated there. If the yields parallel those of the Nubian cemetery, certain facets of Islamic hegemony in the Upper Nile Valley will have to be restudied, particularly the surprising extent southward of Fatimid control. Other plans of the Section include resumption of excavation at Fustat, the oldest Muslim settlement in the Cairo area.

As representatives of the Center, I escorted Mr. and Mrs. Weller of Providence, the first of the visiting members to arrive this season, on a visit to Islamic monuments, and Nick took them to Giza and Saqqara and on a tour of the Egyptian Museum. They are now in Luxor and will go on to Aswan. We hope to see more of them when they return. A marvelous couple: interesting, interested, unabashed by the alien, and supremely good company.

At the request of Mrs. Janet Abu Lughod, who is teaching Urban Sociology at the American University, I took her class on a tour of the Muslim monuments, using them as focal points to explain the ecological growth of Cairo. Since the city lies so completely within the span of Islamic history, it easily serves such purpose, and explanation is hardly a chore; indeed, it might be compared to the elucidation of a city-sized palimpsest.



Apropos ecology, it is worth noting that the Polish Orientalists mentioned in previous Newsletters have established in Heliopolis a "Centre Polonaise d' Ecologie Méditerranée." Dr. Mikhaelowski is heading the project and the Islamist is Ladislav Kubiak, noted for his work with Arabic geographical sources. The third member of the staff is an architect-draftsman.

In the world of scholarship, perhaps the most welcome piece of news is the appearance last Tuesday of Creswell's latest volume on Islamic architecture in Egypt. It covers the period from Saladin to the latter part of the reign of al-Malik al-Nāsir Muhammad ibn Qalā'ūn, that is, from 1170 to 1340 A. D. Thus the major phase of a colossal endeavor is brought to a close. The absorption, the dedication, the detailed scrutiny and painstaking research of a lifetime are now embodied in four great volumes, which are as enduring a monument as any described in them. Far from resting from his labors, Professor Creswell is now engaged in preparing for the press his unique bibliography of more than twelve thousand items on Muslim art and architecture. With that completed, he plans to work on a revised edition of his first volume (familiar to many readers in the Penguin edition), incorporating in it the archaeological discoveries made since its first appearance. Not the least of these is the work of the Iraq Antiquities Service on the site of al-Wasit on the lower Euphrates, which was carried out at the suggestion of Professor Creswell and based on his surprisingly accurate speculations. I begin my own work in his library tomorrow, and he has most kindly consented to advise me in my research in Muslim military architecture."

Among visitors here at the moment is Dr. Walid Arafat of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, who will remain here until the end of January, pursuing his research in early Islamic history. He is now concentrating on the wars of the Riddah, or Apostacy, which followed immediately upon the death of the Prophet.

Sincerely,

George T. Scanlon

Members who wish to communicate with Dr. Scanlon may reach him in care of the American University, Sharia Kasr el-Aini, Cairo, U.A.R.



From Nicholas B. Millet, Egyptological Fellow

Cairo and Luxor, November 2, 1959

Dear Members,

To any newcomer, Cairo is an enchanting and spectacular city. To a student of Egyptology, arriving for a first visit, Egypt is not only the fulfillment of dreams but the source of many surprises. My first reaction was one of astonishment at the greenness and beauty of the countryside. Trees abound -- tamarisks, eucalypti, and sycamores, as well as the ubiquitous palms in their neatly laid-out groves. The level fields present an unexpectedly varied picture, with their crops of cereals, clover, and vegetables, some of which I have never seen before and whose names I still don't know. In the cities, peddlers offer huge bunches of beautiful flowers for fantastically low prices; like their ancestors, the modern Egyptians love flowers, and no home is considered furnished unless it contains at least one bouquet of roses or gardenias. In the Delta, the green cultivation rolls away as far as the eye can see, its flatness relieved only by clumps of trees, mud-brown villages, and the tall white towers of the pigeon-cotes that stand near every settlement. In the region of Cairo, the enclosing deserts provide a backdrop of sun-burnt hills and cliffs, which seem so solid and benign that it is no wonder the ancient valley-dwellers lived in an atmosphere of security and self-satisfaction hemmed in by their protecting walls.

The first few weeks of my stay here have seen an amount of Egyptological activity unusual for so early in the season. The most important event was the meeting of international experts held in Cairo early in October to consider the problems of salvage work made necessary by the new dam. Both the Egyptian Department of Antiquities and UNESCO have been greatly disappointed in the response of foreign institutions and excavators to their appeal for aid in preserving or recording ancient sites to be flooded when the dam is completed. According to the present schedule, only five years remain before the structure will be finished. Some few years' grace may be gained by the fact that the enormous artificial lake which will result from the pent-up waters will take a very long time to fill. The Centre de Documentation of UNESCO is working against time to record and survey visible monuments. It has sent a summer expedition to the temple of Wadi es-Sabua and will continue work this winter at Kalabsheh and the rock-cut temples of Abu Simbel. Still, much remains below the surface which must be revealed and recorded before the great lake makes it forever inaccessible. A great survey on foot, conducted by Dr. Emery and involving several



score of trained workers has made it reasonably certain that no important sites of the early period remain in the area; there are, however, many buildings and cemeteries of later times, from the early Christian era down through the Islamic period, which should be studied. The Centre has been hoping that foreign expeditions would come to its aid in carrying out the necessary work, but so far the reaction has been quite inadequate to cope with what must be done before the deluge.

Since this is the case, the Government of the United Arab Republic recently invited leading scholars from abroad to take part in a conference to determine a course of action. Unfortunately, many of those asked were unable to attend. The United States was represented, among others, by members of the Center, Dr. William C. Hayes of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Dr. George Hughes of the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey at Luxor, who acted in the capacity of observer. The President of the Commission was Professor John O. Brew, director of the Peabody Museum at Harvard. Great Britain was represented by Dr. Walter Emery and the Soviet Union by Dr. Petrovsky, who was in Cairo at the time. These and others spent some days in conference with members of the Department of Antiquities in Cairo and then departed on a brief tour of the Nubian area, visiting virtually every temple between the First and Second Cataracts.

One of the chief concerns of the Commission was to decide how best to preserve the rock temples of Abu Simbel. It was felt that these striking monuments deserved any expense necessary to keep them for posterity. Several schemes were proposed and discarded, more for reasons of impracticality than for considerations of cost. The most ambitious plan -- attractive for its sheer audacity -- involved slicing off the entire mountain at its base and elevating it by means of huge jacks, to allow for the insertion beneath it of an enormous concrete platform which would raise it a hundred meters above its present height and just above the new level of the waters. Unfortunately, such a project, although deemed possible by engineers, would run great risk of splitting the rock, unless the jacking-up were done with almost superhuman delicacy, and one fracture in the rock could of course mean the destruction of a great part of a temple. This plan was accordingly abandoned in favor of a less daring alternative, which has now been officially recommended. This consists of the construction of a semicircular dike of earth around the front of each of the two main temples, creating two semi-circular bays, which could be kept dry by constant pumping. This scheme, which will not cost much less than the Olympian proposal of raising the mountain, also has its imperfections. One is that the rock of the mountain is porous, and water could not be prevented from seeping in from behind,



with resultant destruction of the reliefs in the temples. It has been recommended that a curtain of water-tight plastic material be injected into the rock to seal off the decorated chambers. However this works out, the magnificent effect of the sculptured facades will be preserved, for the dikes will be far enough distant from the fronts of the temples to afford a perspective view. Though this proposal of salvaging Abu Simbel is by far the most practical suggested, some persons (including myself, I must confess) regret the discarding of the wonderful dream of raising the whole mountain, an idea magnificently worthy of the descendants of the pyramid-builders!

Following the recommendations of the Commission, the Government of the United Arab Republic has issued a declaration which may mean a rebirth of Egyptology, if the desired response is made by learned institutions from abroad. Some excerpts from this document will make clear how far the Government is prepared to go in encouraging salvage work on the part of foreigners. An appeal will be issued by UNESCO urging "all...governments, public foundations and institutions and private undertakings and persons" to take part in the work. These agencies may assume "scientific, technical and financial responsibility" for "excavation work in the threatened area, preservation of monuments... which cannot be removed," for "the transfer from the threatened area of specific items" (temples, parts of temples, reliefs, and smaller objects such as sculptures).

Furthermore, the Government is prepared to

"cede at least half the proceeds of their finds to parties which have carried out excavations in Nubia, in the threatened area, on the understanding that certain items which are unique or essential...be assigned to the museums of the United Arab Republic (Province of Egypt)."

Also, the Government will

"authorize excavations outside the threatened area, in the sites of Lower, Middle, and Upper Egypt not at present forming part of recognized concessions...The proposed sites include the Royal Necropolis of Saqqara."

Thus those who participate in the urgent work of Nubian salvage will be rewarded with the opportunity to excavate in Egypt proper.

Lastly, the Government will deed to those involved in the salvage "certain Nubian temples and a large collection of antiquities from other regions of Egypt...now in the State reserves."



The temples mentioned include those of Dabod, Tafeh, Dendur, Ellesya, and Deir.

It is hoped that the generous attitude of the United Arab Republic will meet with the response it deserves. Offers of participation should be addressed to UNESCO, who will hand them over for perusal by the Government. They will next go to an international Advisory Committee of experts, to be organized by the Government in collaboration with UNESCO. This Committee will be the governing and coordinating body in charge of all work, and it is to be hoped that it will be very busy indeed.

I am told that the Department of Antiquities is already studying the collections to determine what objects will be available for distribution to agencies undertaking Nubian salvage. The Department has also decided to proceed with the building of a new Egyptian Museum, to be located in the new city at Abbasiyeh in northeast Cairo. While a new and modern building is highly desirable, the new location will be regrettably much less handy for tourists and scholars than the present one. The Department also has plans for provincial museums to be opened in the near future at Helwan and Suez.

Passers-by on the Midan el-Tahrir, the great square at the Cairo end of the Kasr en-Nil bridge, were somewhat surprised a few weeks ago to behold a tall obelisk manufactured of light cloth on a wooden frame standing on the plaza in front of the Egyptian Museum. A few days later, it disappeared, only to rematerialize on the little circle at the opposite end of the bridge on the island of Gezireh. After that, it popped up on the Gezireh embankment right across from the Nile-Hilton Hotel. This bewildering odyssey was finally explained when I was told that one of the Tanis obelisks of Ramesses II is about to be transported to Cairo for location in one of the public squares. Study of the effect of a full-size model on the landscape of various parts of Cairo has enabled the engineers and city authorities to determine the spot where it will be most effective. It has now been decided that guests at the Hilton Hotel will soon have a view of a Nineteenth Dynasty obelisk as well as of the pyramids at Giza.

Besides the European scholars who were here to attend the conference on Nubia, Dr. Joachim Spiegel and Dr. Hans Goedicke of Göttingen both were here briefly with groups of tourists. Other archeologists have already been at work here. Professor Donadoni of the University of Milan has finished a very short investigation of the Byzantine fortress of Sabagurah at Girsha, in Nubia. Both the Poles and Czechs, as already reported in the Newsletters, are forming archeological institutes in



Cairo. It is hoped that the Polish Expedition under Dr. Mikhailowski will resume excavation at Tell Atrib (Athribis) in the Delta. Dr. Emery, after a brief stay in Egypt for the Nubian conference, returned to England, but is now on his way to Wadi Halfa, where he will continue his excavation of the ancient fortress-city of Buhen. He will concentrate this year on clearing the dwelling area within the walls of the Middle Kingdom fortress, beginning on the west side, where stood one of the principal gates. Members would be well-advised to have a look at the Illustrated London News of September 12, 1959, which contains a splendid double-page plate showing a reconstruction of the fortress, one of the most interesting examples of military architecture that has come down from ancient times.

Sincerely,

Nicholas B. Millet

Members who wish to communicate with Mr. Millet may reach him at Morland House, 16 Sharia el-Sheikh Barakat, Kasr el Doubara, Cairo, U.A.R.

#### NEWS OF LAST YEAR'S FELLOWS

It is most gratifying when Fellows of previous years keep in touch with the "home office." Dr. Williams took time from his new duties at McGill University to fly to Boston for the Annual Meeting where he gave an informal talk to the membership, a brief summary of which is given below in the minutes of the Meeting. Dr. Helen Wall, now Mrs. Jean Jacquet, visited Boston with her husband during the summer, and the Executive Secretary has received several letters from her since her return to Egypt.

Among these, one of November 12 reports negotiations in Cairo between representatives of the United Arab Republic and the United States of America to the end of abolishing dual taxation for citizens of the two countries and of exempting cultural institutions from all taxation. (See the President's comment on this news in his report given in full below.) Another outlines Mrs. Wall-Jacquet's plans for continuing work she began last year under the auspices of the Center.

This work consisted, in part, of copying the graffiti on the roof of the Khonsu temple in Karnak. A description of the method of recording may be of interest to those of our members who are unfamiliar with the arduous details of scholarship.



The colonnade around the first court of the Khonsu temple is covered with great slabs of stone which form a roof-terrace, the floor of which, open to the sky, is covered with graffiti, written partly by priests attached to the temple and partly by visitors. The first step in recording such graffiti consists in making a detailed plan of the slabs of the floor and numbering each graffito in its proper location. This is far from simple, as the graffiti face in all directions and often overlap. Next, the graffiti are photographed, one by one. The roof-terrace is covered with a thick coating of dust, which must be removed with a small brush from each area to be photographed. During this process, new graffiti that were completely invisible before the dust was removed frequently come to light, to be added to the key plan. All photography has to be done between eight and ten in the morning, since the sun is too high after ten o'clock to cast a shadow on the shallow-cut inscriptions. After the films are developed enlargements are printed on matt paper and the characters are outlined in pencil. The inscriptions are then collated with the originals and inked in. Finally, the prints are bleached, so that nothing remains excepting the inked graffiti against a white ground.

Last year, during two and a half months in Luxor, Mrs. Wall-Jacquet copied about half of the inscriptions, eighty-five in all, by this tedious method. She hopes to finish the job during the present season. The interest of the graffiti is mainly paleographical. They show a great variety in styles of writing and the drawing of individual signs, and some of them present a remarkable mingling of hieroglyphic, hieratic, and demotic forms. Some of the inscriptions have a historical value, particularly those which are dated to a certain year in the reign of a given king, about fifteen of which turned up last season. Three graffiti in foreign languages seem to point to the presence of mercenary soldiers at Karnak in the late period.

#### NOTES ON ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

Professor Edwin Brown Allen, a Trustee of the Center who never fails to attend the Annual Meeting and the Trustees' Meeting held in conjunction with it, was greatly missed this year. His absence, however, was due to a happy circumstance, for he has just been appointed Dean of the Graduate School of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his new duties prevented his attendance at the meeting of the Center. Professor Allen will continue as head of the Department of Mathematics until a successor is appointed.

Professor Sterling Dow, Hudson Professor of Archaeology at Harvard University, has informed us that the Bollingen Foundation has made



a very substantial grant to assist in the publication of an Index of Festschriften, to be issued by the Harvard University Press, which will bear about half the cost. This monumental index of more than 39,000 entries, compiled by Miss Dorothy Rounds, will include all Festschriften dealing with Antiquity and the Middle Ages up to 1453 A. D., and thus will contain many items pertaining to Egypt. Work was begun on the compilation in 1951 and publication is scheduled for 1961.

Professor Dow, a Trustee of the Center, plans to visit the Mediterranean countries during the Spring and Summer of 1960 and will spend some time in Egypt.

Another member of the Center, Dr. Myron Bement Smith, is touring the East under the auspices of the International Educational Exchange Service of the Department of State. He will lecture on Muslim architecture in many universities from Egypt all the way to India. At the present writing, he is in Egypt, following a trip to Turkey, where he attended the First International Congress on Turkish Art, and a first visit to the Sudan.

Dr. Smith has just completed a survey of American Universities, where he has studied the methods of teaching the languages and civilizations of the Near East.

John D. Cooney and Bernard V. Bothmer of The Brooklyn Museum, both Trustees of the Center and both one-time Directors of the Center in Cairo, are preparing an important exhibition of Late Egyptian Sculpture, to open at the Museum in the Fall of 1960. This exhibition will include notable objects not only from American public and private collections but also from abroad. In connection with it, there will be issued a catalogue raisonnée, fully illustrated, which should prove an important instrument for the dating and stylistic analysis of sculpture of a much-neglected period of Egyptian Art. Dr. Bothmer, who will be chiefly responsible for the catalogue, did much of his research on the art of the Late Period during the two years in which he acted as Director of the Center in Cairo.

#### PLEASE NOTE!

It is believed that all who are connected with the Center will be interested in the activities and publications of their fellow-members. The Executive Secretary is largely dependent on communications re-



ceived from members for such notes as are given in the section above and on offprints or bibliographical entries for the section that immediately follows this notice. Please address

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PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

Bothmer, Bernard V. "La Tête égyptienne d'Auxerre," in La Revue des Arts, Musées de France, 9, 3, 1959, 98-108; illus.

Dr. Bothmer has long been concerned with rescuing works of Egyptian art from the limbo called "Late Period." This term, loosely used and unclearly defined, has frequently been employed as a term of opprobrium by historians of art, who have seen in later Egyptian works a hybrid style, combining features of earlier Egyptian and classical Greek in a conspicuously unsuccessful manner. In the present article Dr. Bothmer pictures and describes the head of an old man in the Musée Lapidaire d'Auxerre, which he dates to the middle of the first century B. C. While it presents certain Hellenistic features, he contends that it would be a mistake to attribute its realism to classical influence, since such realism was already present in the renaissance of the eighth-seventh centuries, which looked back to a sculptural tradition of the Twelfth Dynasty.

Fischer, Henry George. "An early Occurrence of hm "servant" in Regulations Referring to a Mortuary Estate," in Mitteilungen des Deutschen archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo (Festschrift Junker), 16, 1958, 131-137; illus., plate.

This lexicographical article includes passing comments on servitude and slavery in the Old Kingdom and discusses the significance of the hieroglyphic determinatives used with words expressing some form of subjugation.

----- "Some Notes on the Eastermost Nomes of the Delta in the Old and Middle Kingdoms," in Journal of Near Eastern Studies, XVIII, 1959, 129-142; illus.

As is well known, the limits of Egyptian nomes, or provinces, were not fixed, but varied from one period to another. Unfortunately, ancient lists are often incomplete or ambiguous, and boundaries are rarely defined. Here, Dr. Fischer produces evidence that the Heliopolitan nome may have extended much farther to the northeast in the Old Kingdom than it did in the Ptolemaic period (for which we have the most complete reference) and that it perhaps included the city of Bubastis. Certain references to "Heliopolitan East" in the early period do not, therefore, indicate a separate province, as some have assumed, but simply the eastern part of the Heliopolitan nome. That there was an "East Nome" in its own right at least as early as the Middle Kingdom and perhaps as early as the Fifth Dynasty is probable, its location being between Tanis and Bubastis, that is, roughly the territory of Nome 19 of the Ptolemaic canon.



----- . "A Scribe of the Army in a Saqqara Mastaba of the Early Fifth Dynasty," in Journal of Near Eastern Studies, XVIII, 4, Oct. 1959, 233-272; illus., plates.

This article on a hitherto unpublished tomb is based on negatives in the possession of the Department of Antiquities and two reliefs in American Museums. From this material, Dr. Fischer has been able to reconstruct the plan of the tomb and its scenes. Discussion of the latter gives rise to many important points of style. The study of the inscriptions reveals not only the name of the owner, who was one of four generations of expedition leaders, but inspires archaeological, historical, and philological commentary of great interest.

Miles, George C. "Contributions to Arabic Metrology I. Early Arabic Glass Weights and Measure Stamps Acquired by the American Numismatic Society." Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 141, New York, 1958.

The weights and stamps discussed in this volume are almost entirely from Egypt.

----- . "Excavation Coins from the Persepolis Region," Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 143, New York 1959.

Nims, Charles Francis. "The Bread and Beer Problems of the Moscow Mathematical Papyrus," in Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, 44, 1958, 56-65.

Eleven of the problems in this papyrus are concerned with bread, beer, and grains. Much of the author's commentary is here concerned with a problematical word, which has been given several renderings by Egyptologists who have studied the papyrus, but for which Dr. Nims brings proof to support the meaning "Barley-malt." This interpretation makes possible the working out of the problems according to ancient Egyptian mathematical principles, which, though differently stated, are of a nature "not much different from problems of present-day school arithmetic."

Parker, Richard A. "A Demotic Mathematical Papyrus Fragment," in Journal of Near Eastern Studies, XVIII, 4, Oct. 1959, 275-279; plate.

This text, in the Griffith Institute since 1898, is the first demotic mathematical text to be published. It comes from Dime<sup>^</sup> and probably dates from the end of the Ptolemaic or the beginning of the Roman Period. It is, according to Professor Parker, chiefly of interest "as illustrating



how the formulas for the basic operations have endured or altered in the two thousand years between it and the earliest known (mathematical) texts." The five problems it presents are variations on a single theme already familiar through the earlier papyri in the Moscow collection.

Peck, Caroline Nestman. "Some Decorated Tombs of the First Intermediate Period at Naga ed-Der," in Dissertation Abstracts, XIX, 9, 1959.

The complete dissertation, here given in abstract, may be obtained in microfilm or Xerox. It describes in detail three large tombs, two of Dynasty Eight and one of Dynasty Nine, which belonged to important officials of the period between the Old and Middle Kingdoms and have provided a number of archaeological and historical facts to add to our knowledge of that little-known age.

Simpson, William Kelly. "A Hatnub Stela of the Early Twelfth Dynasty," in Mitteilungen des Deutschen archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo (Festschrift Junker) 16, 1958, 278-309; plates.

This fragmentary stela in the collection of M. Michaelides seems, rather exceptionally, to have been made for a "conscript of the levies of recruits," that is, for a humble "member of a quarrying gang rather than a chief or overseer." Though the provenance is not known, the text, paleography, and the nature of the title all indicate the alabaster quarries at Hatnub as the probable place of origin. The text is a variant of the "Appeal to the Living." Dr. Simpson discusses at some length the development of this formula, in which the living are entreated to respect tombs and monuments or else to suffer a curse, which is usually included in the formula.

----- "Sobkemiah, a Vizier of Sesostri III," in Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, 43, 1957, 26-29.

This article adds a name to the standard list of viziers in Weil's Die Viziere des Pharaonenreiches, suggests certain changes in dating for viziers already on the list, produces evidence to show that the vizierate of the Twelfth Dynasty was not held by nomarchs, that the title was not at that period honorific (as sometimes assumed for the period immediately following the Old Kingdom), and that the same person sometimes held office from one reign into another. "Finally, the development of the office from the Twelfth to the Thirteenth Dynasty indicates an aggrandizement of the vizierate at the expense of the kingship."

----- "The Vessels with Engraved Designs and the Repoussé Bowl from the Tell Basta Treasure," in American Journal of Archaeology, 63, Jan. 1959, 29-45; plates.



The important treasure found by workmen on the Egyptian railway in 1906 on the site of the ancient Bubastis "has aroused considerable discussion among non-Egyptologists because of the possible Asiatic origin of some of the objects and among Egyptologists because of the general uncertainty which prevails as to the date of the treasure." Dr. Simpson convincingly assigns the objects known to belong to it to the end of the Nineteenth Dynasty or shortly thereafter, excepting only the bracelets bearing the cartouche of Ramses II, which are of course earlier. While Asiatic elements appear in their shapes and decoration, he sees little evidence that the vessels which form part of the treasure were imported from the East, but rather sees in them objects of local manufacture reflecting an international style current in Egypt during the later Empire.

Vermeule, Cornelius C. "A Newly Discovered Masterpiece of Attic Vase-Painting: A 'Sack of Troy,' Which May Derive from a Lost Mural by Kimon of Kleonai," in The Illustrated London News, 235, 6271, Oct. 10, 1959, 398-399; plates.

While not concerned with Egypt, this article by one of the most recent members of the Center presents a subject of perennial interest to those of our membership brought up in the classical tradition. It describes and pictures a vase of 465 B. C. by the Altamura Painter, which has recently been acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The principal scene presents most dramatically final incidents in the Trojan War, the death of Priam and the wresting of Cassandra from the protection of the divine image of Athena. Here also is the infant son of Hector in the grasp of his captor, who is to hurl him from the walls of Troy. On the reverse of the vase the story is taken "into the future" showing the escape of Aeneas, who bears his aged father, Anchises, on his back, to seek a new life in Italy. Apart from the interest of the subject, this vase must rank among the great masterpieces of Greek painting for its fine composition and the beauty of its drawing.

#### Reviews

Burton, Virginia. Review of Ceiling Stelae in Second Dynasty Tombs from Excavations in Helwan, by Zaky Y. Saad (*Annales du Service des Antiquités de L'Égypte*, Supplément 21, 1957), in American Journal of Archaeology, 63, 1959, 288-290.

The monograph here reviewed describes a type of rectangular stone slab bearing a representation of the deceased seated before a table of offerings. From the Fourth Dynasty on, such stelae appear as panels above the false doors of Old Kingdom tombs. In the Second Dynasty tombs, however, they are installed in the ceiling of the tomb-chamber



for the delectation of the dead alone, a location somewhat disturbing to the interpretation of later stelae as "windows" affording a view of the deceased feasting in his subterranean burial place. The reviewer presents a number of interesting comments on both the ceiling stelae and those used in conjunction with the false doors, which seem to have had an identical purpose.

Fischer, Henry George. Review of Medinet Habu V: The Temple Proper I, by the Epigraphic Survey (University of Chicago Oriental Institute Publications LXXXIII), Chicago, 1957, in American Journal of Archaeology 3, 1959, 195-198.

Included in Dr. Fischer's comments is a discussion of the practice of affixing metal overlays on relief figures of divinities, as is indicated in this publication by surviving holes for the attachment of such overlays. This practice seems to be based on a tradition of popular worship, which permitted Egyptians to present their petitions and prayers to the gods "in the doorway," that is, at the entrances or other points in the exterior walls where the gods dwelling within the sanctuary were depicted. Beyond this wall, only persons of priestly rank were presumably permitted to penetrate.

----- Review of Tell Basta, by Labib Habachi (Annales du Service des Antiquités de L'Égypte, Supplément 22, 1957), in American Journal of Archaeology 62, 1958, 330-333.

Dr. Habachi's excellent monograph covering excavations made from 1939 to 1944 in the temple site of Bubastis inspires extended comment on the Old Kingdom material brought to light in the course of digging. Dr. Fischer discusses at some length the Ka-house of Pepi I which was uncovered, together with its extensive enclosure. The recovery of this well-preserved architectural complex of the Old Kingdom "from the proverbially unpromising soil of the Delta may well encourage further excavation of the neglected sites of the north."

Needler, Winifred. Review of The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt, by W. Stevenson Smith (Pelican Books, London, 1958), in American Journal of Archaeology, 63, 1959, 287-288.

Miss Needler says that the author has taken "an excellent way to treat a subject that is fundamentally indivisible... The basic unity of the ancient life... is never lost... Only with the aid of a book such as this, which creates an impression of an actual journey through time and space, can the daily-life material from the tombs correct for the average person the distorted picture produced by the overwhelming mass of evidence from burials and the almost complete absence of evidence from living sites."



Riefstahl, Elizabeth. Review of Picture Writing in Ancient Egypt, by Nina M. Davies (Oxford University Press, 1958), in American Journal of Archaeology 63, 1959, 89-90.

Mrs. Davies' slim volume is the work, not of a philologist, but of an artist who has a deep understanding of the signs she pictures. The collection of hieroglyphs she offers contains only a few of the hundreds used in Egyptian writing and is limited to a selection of those employed in the New Kingdom, but it "should be enough to whet the interest of an incipient student or satisfy the curiosity of the layman who wants to know 'something about the hieroglyphs.'"

----- Review of Studien zur Polychromie der Plastik I: Ägypten, by Patrik Reuterswärd (Stockholm, 1958), in American Journal of Archaeology, 63, 1959, 397-398.

The author of this monograph offers proof that all Egyptian sculptures in whatever material were to a greater or less extent painted in color unless unfinished. Since this statement is almost indisputable for works in limestone or wood, the discussion is largely confined to sculptures in green or black hard stones. Here arises the question of whether or not the flesh parts were painted. The author contends that, especially in the New Kingdom, those parts representing flesh in divine and royal sculptures were frequently left in the colors of the stone, such unnatural (or supernatural) colors being those of divinity, shared by gods and kings alike. A great part of the work is devoted to an excursus on the colors of the gods and to the religio-magical concepts underlying their representation in art.

Simpson, William Kelly. "Historical and Lexical Notes on the New Series of Hammamat Inscriptions," in Journal of Near Eastern Studies, XVIII, Jan. 1959, 20-39. Review of Nouvelles inscriptions du Ouadi Hammamat, by Georges Goyon, Paris 1959.

It is always gratifying to find such thoughtful and scholarly reviews as this appearing in the main body of a periodical and not relegated to the fine print at the end of a number, for Dr. Simpson not only gives a critical appraisal of Goyon's book but makes significant contributions to it. Of especial interest is his commentary on the transition between Dynasties Eleven and Twelve, pp 25-28.

----- Review of The Royal Cemeteries of Kush IV: Royal Tombs at Meroë and Barkal, by Dows Dunham, Boston, 1957, in American Journal of Archaeology 63, 1959, 395-397.



The volume here reviewed marks "the half-way point in the publication of the results of the Harvard University-Museum of Fine Arts Expedition to the Sudan." The reviewer is justly admiring of the steady pace at which these volumes have been issued by Mr. Dunham, who participated in the excavations, especially since final reports of other American archaeological investigations in Egypt seem to have reached an impasse. The review contains a brief but interesting speculation on the significance of the rather enigmatic bronze bells with iron clappers found in the royal tombs.



AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING, November 17, 1959

The Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc., was called to order in the Study Room of the Egyptian Department of the Museum of Fine Arts at 2:10 P.M. on Tuesday, November 17, 1959. Mr. Edward W. Forbes, President, was in the Chair and 124 members were present in person or by proxy.

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the last Annual Meeting and it was voted that they be accepted without reading.

The next item on the agenda was the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Dows Dunham, which was unanimously accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance in Bank, September 30, 1958 (not including Bollingen Fund) ----- \$ 2,830.51

Receipts:

|                               |                    |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Dues -----                    | \$ 1,775.00        |                          |
| Dividends from Investments -- | 617.81             |                          |
| Gifts -----                   | 700.00             |                          |
|                               | <u>\$ 3,092.81</u> | ----- <u>\$ 3,092.81</u> |
| Total Receipts -----          |                    | \$ 5,923.32              |

Expenses:

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Honorarium Executive Secretary -----                       | \$ 599.00          |
| Honorarium Assistant Treasurer -----                       | 450.00             |
| Newsletters -----  | 378.57             |
| Stationery, Office Supplies &<br>Incidental Expenses ----- | 238.46             |
| Postage, Telephone, Telegram -----                         | 19.74              |
| Expenses of Annual Meeting & Corp.<br>Filing Fee -----     | <u>49.78</u>       |
| Total Expenses -----                                       | <u>\$ 1,735.55</u> |

Balance in Bank, September 30, 1959 (not including Bollingen Fund) ----- \$ 4,187.77



Special Account

Invested Funds

|              |                       |                    |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| \$ 10,000.00 | Anonymous             |                    |
| 10,000.00    | John Dimick           |                    |
| 2,341.79     | Anonymous             |                    |
| \$ 22,341.79 | as of October 1, 1959 | ----- \$ 22,341.79 |

Uninvested Funds

|             |  |             |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| \$ 1,533.55 | Residue from 1st Anonymous Gift              |             |
| 617.81      | Dividends from Invested Funds                |             |
| 700.00      | Special Gifts*                               |             |
| \$ 2,851.36 | Of this there were invested on Oct. 14, 1959 | \$ 2,800.00 |

Total Invested as of Nov. 16, 1959 \$ 25,141.79

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| *Mrs. Joseph Lindon Smith | \$ 100.00        |
| Miss Amelia Peabody       | 600.00           |
|                           | <u>\$ 700.00</u> |

---

Since closing of Books Sept. 30, 1959 we have received for Special Account

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Dividends, Nov. 9--- | \$ 182.59     |
| Cash Balance not     |               |
| invested -----       | 51.36         |
| **Additional Special |               |
| Gifts -----          | <u>340.00</u> |

In Regular Account for credit to Special Account ----- \$ 573.95

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| **Edward W. Forbes | \$ 100.00        |
| Wm. Phillips       | 200.00           |
| Wm. Kelly Simpson  | 40.00            |
|                    | <u>\$ 340.00</u> |

Note: We have received to date special gifts toward matching the contingent offer of \$10,000.00-----\$ 3,381.79



The Membership Secretary, Professor Richard A. Parker, next reported to the Meeting as follows:

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

For the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1959

During the last year we lost three members due to death, five who resigned, and ten who permitted their membership to lapse. Fourteen new members were admitted. This is a net loss of four in membership.

Our present total of 202 members is divided as follows:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Regular Members      | 133 |
| Contributing Members | 39  |
| Sustaining Members   | 12  |
| Associates           | 6   |
| Fellow               | 1   |
| Life                 | 11  |

Richard A. Parker  
Membership Secretary

In commenting on this report, Professor Parker informed the meeting that the membership remained fairly stationary: since the closing of his books on September 30, enough new members have been added to compensate for the loss shown in his report.

The President requested a moment of silence in memory of the three members who have died during the year: Dr. Edward Bibring, a member since 1953, Professor Arthur Jeffrey, a member since 1950 and former Director of the Center in Cairo, Mr. Ambrose Lansing, a member since 1950 and former head of the Egyptian Department, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The President delivered the following address:

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to report that I heard late yesterday evening that the Trustees of the Bollingen Foundation have voted to continue for two



additional years the grant of ten thousand dollars annually to be used for two fellowships, one for Egyptological and one for Islamic studies in Egypt. As you all know, the Center has received a similar grant for the past three years. This has enabled us to maintain our office in Cairo, since the Fellows appointed under the grant have voluntarily combined their own research with duties on behalf of the Center. Such duties, voluntarily assumed, have consisted in part of advising and assisting visiting members of the Center, establishing liaison between American scholars and their Egyptian and European colleagues, furnishing information to institutions and scholars here at home, and helping them to secure publications and photographs and data concerning monuments or objects in Egyptian museums. The representatives of the Center in Egypt have also advised Egyptians and other colleagues who contemplate study in the United States or who wish information on objects in American collections or exchange of ideas with American scholars. They have given lectures for Egyptian and foreign audiences and conducted group visits to monuments for members of the Center residing in Egypt. Furthermore, they have contributed reports on archaeological work in Egypt for the Newsletters, which you all receive.

All this sounds like full-time employment. I am glad to say, however, that the energetic young persons who have received fellowships under the Bollingen grant have been able to make progress in their studies, in spite of the time they have devoted to the work of the Center.

After his year as Director of the Center in Cairo, Mr. Edward F. Wente returned to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, where he presented a thesis for which he had completed research in Egypt and was awarded his doctor's degree. He has now been appointed to the Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute at Luxor, and thus, is again in Egypt. John Alden Williams, who held the Center's Islamic Fellowship for two years, is now professor in the Islamic Institute of McGill University. Happily, he is with us today and can give you a brief report in person. Dr. Helen K. Wall, who held the Egyptological fellowship last season, paid a flying trip to Boston during the summer. She was married in June to M. Jean Jacquet, a Swiss architect connected with UNESCO, and has returned with her husband to Egypt to continue the studies begun last year under the grant from the Center. A report of her research will be included in the forthcoming Newsletter.

It is with regret that I must announce that Mr. John Goelet, who served as Director in Cairo last season, will be detained by family business in France this year and unable to make any considerable stay, if any, in Egypt. Under the circumstances, he prefers to work for the Center without a title. The senior Fellow, Dr. George T. Scanlon, who has



just received his doctor's degree from Princeton University, will continue Islamic studies in Cairo, concentrating largely on the archaeological background of his thesis, which consisted of the editing, with translation and commentary, of a Mameluk document on the art of war. The Egyptological fellow for this season is Nicholas B. Millet, who will prepare in Egypt for his doctor's thesis, having completed the academic requirements for his degree at the Oriental Institute. Both Fellows are now in Egypt, and we hope to include reports from them in Newsletter Number Thirty-Six.

The year 1960 will mark the tenth anniversary of the corporate existence of the American Research Center in Egypt. We hope to be able to arrange for some special celebration of the anniversary on the occasion of the next Annual Meeting. It may not, however, be amiss at this time to recapitulate some of the accomplishments of the past decade.

It is a pleasure to be able to tell you that we can look back with pride upon our progress. While (as the report of the Membership Secretary shows) we have had no spectacular increase in membership, certain members have stood by the Center since its earliest days. Some we have lost through death or default, but their places have been taken by new members as actively interested in the promotion of scholarly research as were the founders. Included in the number of our supporters are young students, mature scholars, and many laymen, all of whom believe in the fostering of international good will through exchange of ideas. As the great Egyptologist Adolf Erman wrote many years ago to his French colleague Gaston Maspero, "Scholarship knows no boundaries". And he wrote this shortly after the First World War, in which he and Maspero had both lost their only sons in opposing armies.

For the first time in ten years, the Center has a tidy invested capital. This Capital, as has been mentioned, consists in an anonymous gift of \$10,000 and a second gift from Mr. and Mrs. John Dimick, which has been earmarked for the maintenance of the Center's office in Cairo. A third anonymous gift of \$10,000 has been offered to the Center on condition that we match it before the close of 1959. While Trustees and members have contributed sums now totalling one-third of the required amount, we are still a long way from the goal. We have not, however, given up hope of attaining it, and I urge upon all of you an effort to interest prospective donors in the work of the Center.

Mrs. Wall-Jacquet has recently written us that the Cairo newspapers have announced an agreement between the United States Government and that of the United Arab Republic to do away with dual taxation; it is, moreover reported, that discussions are taking place to the end of



relieving cultural institutions from any taxation whatever. While we have not been able to verify these reports, they would, if true, remove one of the chief obstacles in the way of the establishment of permanent headquarters for the Center in Cairo. Even with that obstacle removed, we would need a much larger capital than we have at present in order to maintain a building or even a permanent office in Cairo. That, however, is a purpose to be kept in sight. We can only hope that the continued support of a loyal membership and devoted officers may some day make it possible.

Edward W. Forbes, President

## REPORT OF DR. JOHN ALDEN WILLIAMS

Fellow of the Center in Cairo, 1957-1958, 1958-1959

Dr. Williams gave an interesting and encouraging account of his experience in Egypt. During his two seasons in that country, he observed a distinct improvement in Egypto-American relationships. Dr. Williams added that his experience with the monuments and collections of Egypt made possible by the Center, has proved invaluable to him in his present career in the Islamic Institute of McGill University, where he gives a course in Islamic Art and Architecture. He pointed out that there is only one University in the United States (the University of Michigan) which offers courses in this field.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following Dr. Williams' talk, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers. It was drawn to the attention of those present that two additional Vice-Presidents had been added to the slate: Dr. William Stevenson Smith and Dr. William Kelly Simpson. Dr. Smith had consented, if elected, to act as Administrative Vice-President, in order to take some of the burden of routine matters from the shoulders of Mr. Forbes, who has many duties and obligations in addition to those of the Center. Dr. William Kelly Simpson, who is near at hand in New Haven, had signified his willingness to aid, as he had unofficially done in the past, with practical assistance and advice. The Executive Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the following officers:

|                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| President:                     | Edward W. Forbes        |
| Administrative Vice-President: | William Stevenson Smith |
| Vice-Presidents:               | William Phillips        |
|                                | Frederick Foster        |
|                                | Robert Woods Bliss      |
|                                | John A. Wilson          |
|                                | William Kelly Simpson   |



|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Treasurer:            | Dows Dunham         |
| Assistant Treasurer:  | Mary B. Cairns      |
| Membership Secretary: | Richard A. Parker   |
| Executive Secretary:  | Elizabeth Riefstahl |

She was also instructed to cast one vote for the following members of the Executive Committee:

Edward W. Forbes, Chairman ex officio  
Dows Dunham  
John D. Cooney  
Frederick Foster  
Richard A. Parker  
William Phillips  
Ashton Sanborn

Alternates: William Stevenson Smith  
Bernard V. Bothmer  
William Kelly Simpson

She was also instructed to cast one ballot for the election of the following Trustees, their term to expire in 1964:

Robert Woods Bliss (re-elected)  
Sterling Dow (re-elected)  
Frederick Foster (re-elected)  
William Kelly Simpson

A Committee was next appointed for planning and carrying out a special celebration in connection with the Tenth Anniversary of the Center:

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mrs. Oric Bates        | Mrs. Melville Smith       |
| Miss Suzanne Chapman   | Dr. William Kelly Simpson |
| Professor Sterling Dow | Mr. Edward Terrace        |
| Dr. Henry Fischer      | Professor Joseph Upton    |

The President next requested a vote of thanks to the officers and trustees of the Center who had contributed so freely of their services during the past year. His request was amended to include the President himself and the motion was unanimously passed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Elizabeth Riefstahl  
Executive Secretary